We Claim:

1. An immediate release tablet comprising at least 60 weight % of an active ingredient and a powdered wax having an melting point greater than about 90° C, said tablet meeting the USP dissolution specifications for immediate release tablets containing said active ingredient.

2. The tablet of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of acetaminophen, ibuprofen, calcium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium oxide, aluminum hydroxide, mixtures thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. The tablet of claim 1, wherein the wax is selected from the group consisting of linear hydrocarbons, microcrystalline wax, and mixtures thereof.

4. The tablet of claim 1 prepared by direct compression.

5. The tablet of claim 1 which is substantially free of water-soluble, non-saccharide polymeric binders.

6. The tablet of claim 1, which is substantially free of hydrated polymers.

7. The tablet of claim 1 further comprising at least one outer coating.

8. The tablet of claim 7, wherein the outer coating comprises a material selected from the group consisting of gelatin, isomalt, monosaccharides, disaccharides, polysaccharides such as starch, cellulose derivatives, shellacs, polyhedric alcohols such as xylitol, mannitol, sorbitol, maltitol, erythritol, and polyalkylene glycols.

9. The tablet of claim 1 comprising up to about 20 weight percent wax.

10. The tablet of claim 1 further comprising an excipient selected from the group consisting of disintegrants, flow aids, and optionally lubricants.

11. The tablet of claim 1 further comprising an insert disposed within tablet.

12. The tablet of claim 11, wherein the insert comprises additional active ingredient.

13. The tablet of claim ~~12,~~ wherein the additional active ingredient has a different release profile from the active ingredient in the tablet.

14. The tablet of claim 12, wherein the amount of additional active ingredient is from about 0.1 to about 30 mg.

15. The tablet of claim 12, wherein the additional active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of loratadine, fexofenadine, cetirizine, chlorpheniramine, brompheniramine, diphenhydramine, pseudoephedrine, cyproheptadine, montelukast, loperamide, famotidine, dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, cyclobenzaprine, alendronate, hydrochlorthiazide, rofecoxib, indomethacin, ketoprofen, meloxicam, piroxicam, lovastatin, atorvastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin, finasteride, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, and mixtures thereof.

16. The tablet of claim 1, wherein the particle size of the wax is in the range of about 5 to about 100 microns.

17. An immediate release tablet comprising at least 60 weight percent of an active ingredient and a powdered wax selected from the group consisting of shellac wax, paraffin-type waxes, polyethylene glycol, and mixtures thereof; wherein said tablet is prepared by direct compression.

18. An immediate release tablet comprising at least 60 weight percent of an active ingredient and a powdered wax selected from the group consisting of shellac wax, paraffin-type waxes, polyethylene glycol, and mixtures thereof; wherein said tablet is substantially free of water-soluble, non-saccharide polymeric binders.

19. An immediate release tablet comprising at least 60 weight percent of an active ingredient and a powdered wax selected from the group consisting of shellac wax,

paraffin-type waxes, polyethylene glycol, and mixtures thereof; wherein said tablet is substantially free of hydrated polymers.

20. The tablet of claim 17, wherein said active ingredient is in its native crystalline form.